

St. Joseph's Family Activities



Advent 2021

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Advent – Christ is coming!

A very happy new year to you all! The first Sunday of advent is the first Sunday of the Church's year. As with all new years, may be consider making a new year's resolution to help your family to pray a bit more. Advent begins in November this year so help your children to realise that the advent calendar is late! May be add in something extra for the last days of November.

I have covered the four Sundays of Advent but have not covered Christmas itself in this edition. If I have time, I will send out a Christmas and new year edition towards the end of December, which will cover the 12 days of Christmas. So pray for me that I can get it done!

Please do circulate these sheets to as many people as you think would be interested. They are for everyone and my mission is that families can be supported in their work of forming their children in our wonderful faith in God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As ever, if you wish to see past copies of these sheets, please go to <https://www.stjosephsmalvern.org/j/> and then click on the dropdown box for past editions.

There are Four Dimensions of our Faith, and the activities all reflect one or more of each of these dimensions.

Advent is about coming – the coming of Christ. The first part of advent looks forward to the final coming of Christ, before we turn to reflect on Christ's first coming in a stable in Bethlehem. The best preparation for Christ's final coming is preparing prayerfully to celebrate His first coming.



The family is the “domestic Church” and if we are not able to gather in person with the parish, it's a good idea to set aside special times to pray with the family, even if it is just 10 minutes two or three times a week. These are graced moments. Light a candle and have a few moments' silence and remind everyone that they are in the presence of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These times are very precious and even if it is just a few minutes after a meal, it can be a fruitful time. Don't bite off more than you can chew! Start with just a few moments and build up the scope and variety of prayers slowly. Give everyone the opportunity to voice their own prayers as well as reciting traditional prayers.

**Speaking/Learning the faith
(which the Church calls
“professing the faith”)**

**Living it (in Christ) – i.e. the
choices we make in
everyday life**

**Celebrating it in the Liturgy
and the Sacraments**

**Christian
prayer.**

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Gospel for Sunday 28th November: 1st Sunday of Advent

Gospel

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Jesus said to his disciples:
'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; and on the earth all the countries will be surprised and worried. ... And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up straight, hold your heads high, because your freedom is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will get used to sinful ways of living. Then the last day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. or it will be the same for every person on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord
R/: **Praise to you
Lord Jesus Christ**

Discussion on the Gospel



- ✠ Light the first candle on your advent wreath
- ✠ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

This is new years day! The first Sunday in Advent is the start of the Church's year. The Church's year begins with a look to the future coming of Christ in glory. No one knows when that will be, it could be tonight, it could be in thousands of years. The message is to live as if Christ is coming today, and then we will not be caught unawares. I have slightly edited this version to make it more understandable for young children.

Q: Jesus is telling us to be ready for when He comes back again at the end of time. What will be the signs that He is coming? (A. signs in the heavens and also the whole world will be surprised.)

Q: What did Jesus say that we should do to be ready for Him to come again? (A. Watch ourselves, stand up straight hold our heads high.)

Q: What did Jesus mean by this? (A: That we need to be aware of what we are doing, that we need to make sure that we do as we are told, are honest [upstanding] and that we need to look out for other people, [help them].)

Q: What will happen to our hearts if we don't do this? (A: We can get used to bad habits.)

Q: What does Jesus mean by "staying awake" – does He mean that we don't need to go to bed? (A: He means that we need to keep alert and always be aware of not getting into bad habits.)

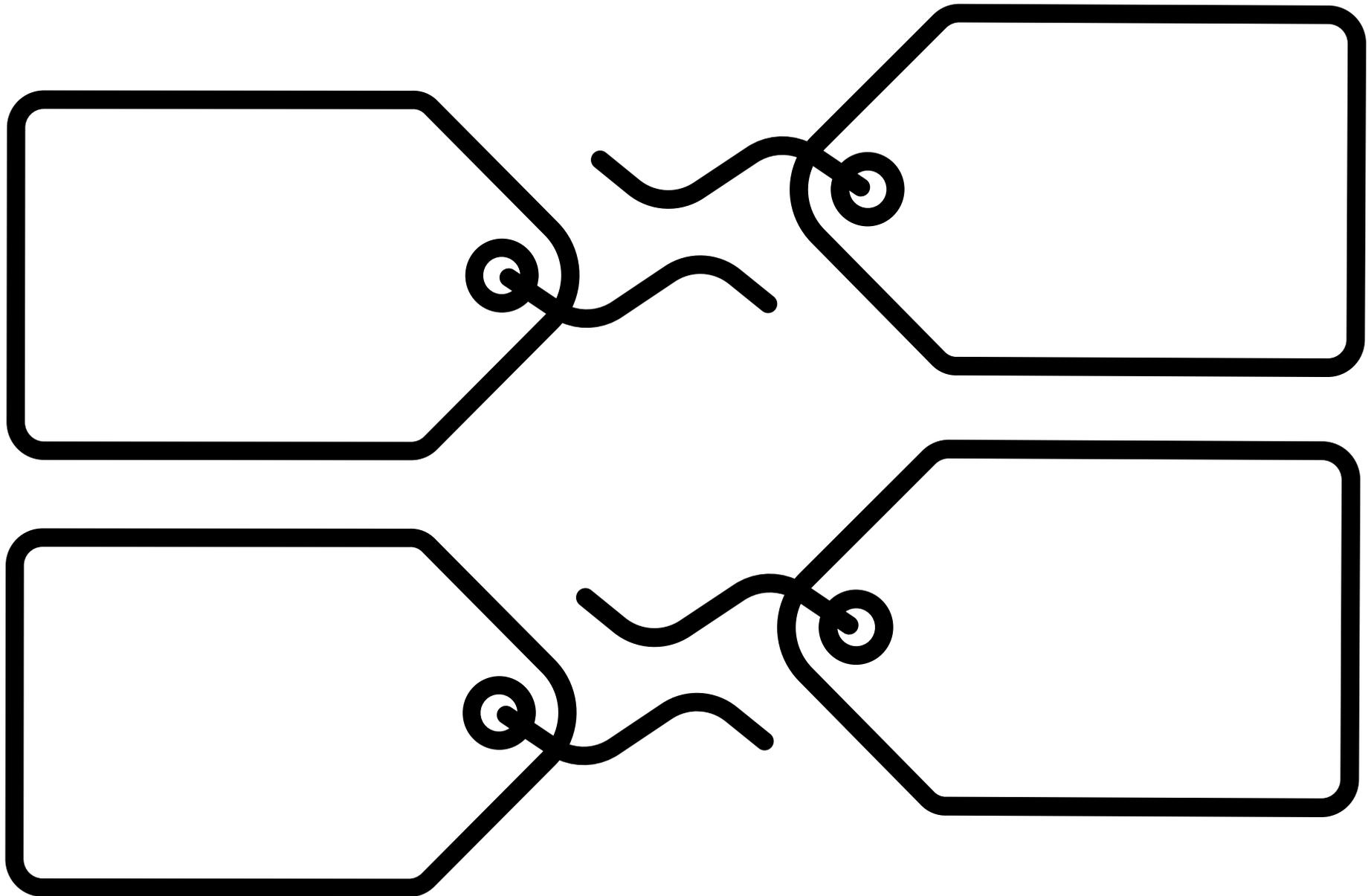
Q: This is the beginning of the Church's new year. What do we normally do at the beginning of the new year? (A: Make a new years' resolution.)

Q: What "new years' resolutions can we make at the beginning of this Church's year? (A: Open.)

Q: Who will help us to be strong and keep to these "new years" resolutions? (A: the Holy Spirit.)

Finish by playing this song to the Holy Spirit; "Holy Spirit light divine" (The words are below if you want to join in). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iaLo3CEkxw>

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Holy Spirit, light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine,
Chase the shades of night away,
Turn my darkness into day. | 2. Holy Spirit, power divine,
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
Long has sin, without control,
Held dominion o'er my soul. | 3. Holy Ghost, with joy divine,
Cheer this saddened heart of mine,
Bid my many woes depart,
Heal my wounded, bleeding heart. |
|--|--|---|
4. Holy Spirit, all divine, Dwell within this heart of mine, Cast down every idol throne, Reign supreme, and reign alone.



Here are four labels - write a resolution on each one - one for each week of Advent and cut them out. Stick them up somewhere where you will see them to remind you!

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for Sunday 5th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, ... the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the
salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: **Praise to you Lord
Jesus Christ**

Discussion on the Gospel

- ✚ Light the second candle **of your advent wreath**
- ✚ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✚ Someone read the Gospel slowly



This week, the Gospel is referring to the coming of John the Baptist. He is urging us to prepare a way for the Lord – to prepare for Christ. This is what advent is all about.

Q: What did John the Baptist proclaim (announce)? (A: Repentance for sins.)

Q: What does repentance mean? (A: Being sorry.)

Q: What is a sin? (A: Something that we do on purpose that we know we should not do, or something that we don't do that we know we should do.)

Q: Give me some examples of things that we might do on purpose that are sins? (A: Open.)

Q: A mistake is not a sin – what are things that we might do by mistake? (A: Open)

Q: John the Baptist is telling us to prepare for Jesus' coming so that we might see God's salvation. What does "salvation" mean? (A: Being set free from our sins so that we can live with the Father in heaven for ever and ever.)

Q: What can we do to prepare, to get ready, for Jesus coming? (A: Open but you could suggest, saying extra prayers, children who have made their first Confession can receive that Sacrament....)

Q: At Mass we say sorry to Jesus for the sins (bad choices) we have done at the beginning of Mass. How does that prayer begin? (A: "I confess ... or children may respond "Lord have mercy".)

Finish by praying the "I confess" together, slowly and thoughtfully.

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to
do, *(Strike your breast three times as
you say...)*

through my fault,
through my fault,
through my most grievous fault.

Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen

Make a mini John the Baptist to have at home to remind you that Advent is preparing for Jesus' coming.



coming.

Instructions:

You will need:

- Cardboard roll
- Round or oval disc for face
- Two strips of paper/card for arms
- Cloth for the "dress" cut long enough to wrap around the tube
- "Hair" made from cloth cut with strips either side but a solid section in the middle to cover top of tube
- Label saying "get ready for Jesus" (Older children can write their own which will drive the message home more, younger children may need it ready printed).



1. Roll the cloth for the "dress" around the cardboard tube to make the body, tucking excess up underneath the tube. Glue in place.
2. Draw eyes and an open mouth on the circle for the face.
3. Put some glue around the top of the tube, including along the top of the face.
4. Stick the "hair" in place.
5. Put glue on one end of the arms and stick in place either side of the body
6. Write the message on the label and stick to the other ends of the arms.

Your John the Baptist is now ready to display, to remind you that advent is about getting ready for Jesus.

Gospel for Sunday 12th December, 3rd Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Discussion on the Gospel



- ✚ Light the third candle of your advent wreath
- ✚ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✚ Someone read the Gospel slowly

This week, in the Gospel we hear how we can prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ and also some ideas of what Jesus will do when He comes.

Q: What can we do to prepare for Jesus' coming? (A: Give away what we don't need, not to be greedy and treat everyone fairly.)

Q: Who did the people think that John the Baptist was? (A: the Messiah/the Christ [that is, God's expected saviour])

Q: What did John the Baptist say when he realised that people thought that He was the Christ [the Messiah]? (A: He told them that he was not, but that someone was coming after him who was more powerful than he was.)

Q: Who did John the Baptist mean? (A: Jesus.)

Q: What is Jesus going to do? (A: He will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire.)

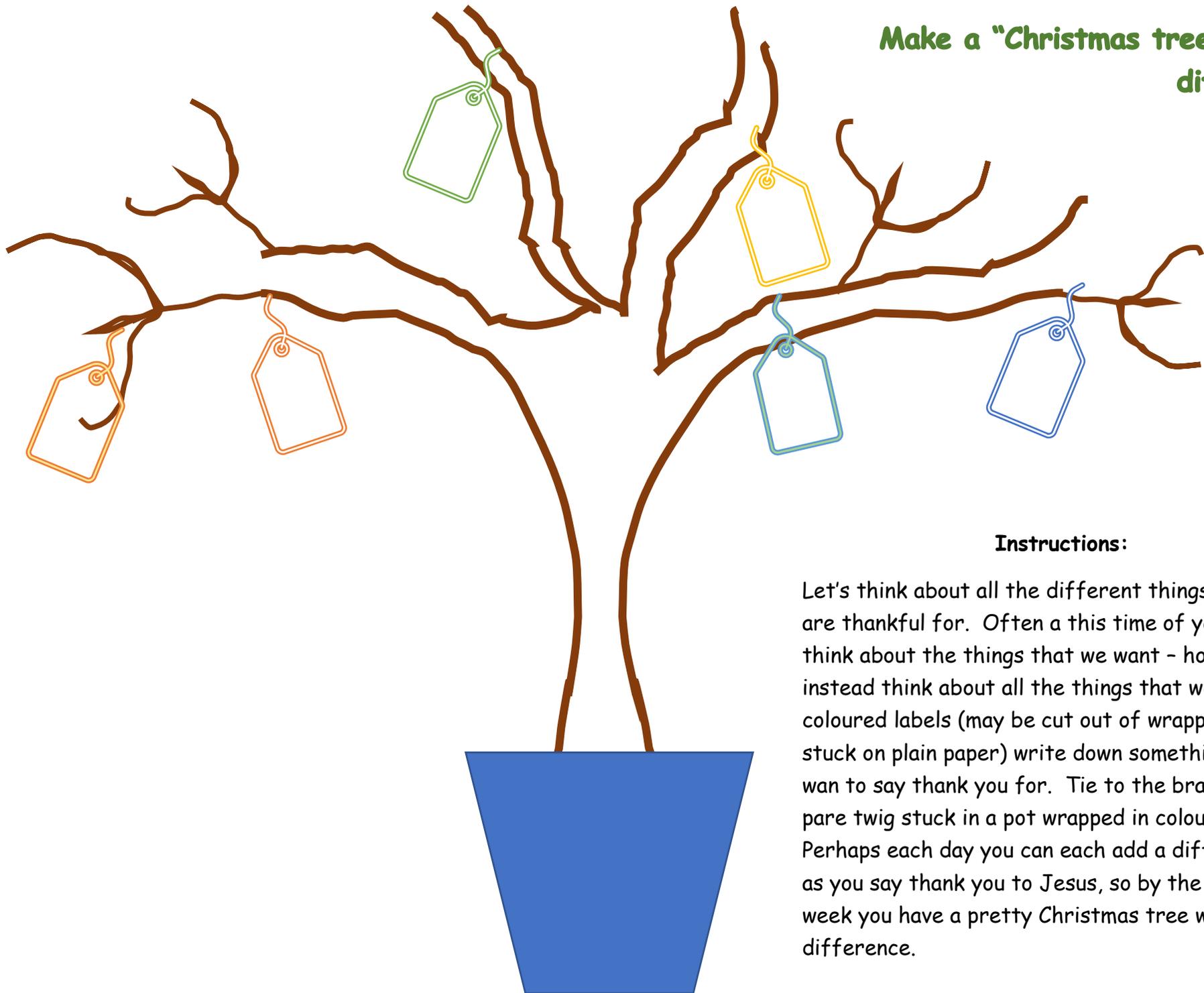
Q: When do we receive the Holy Spirit? (A: First of all in Baptism, then the gift of the Holy Spirit is strengthened in Confirmation, and also in all the sacraments [especially Holy Communion and Confession] the grace of the Holy Spirit is renewed in us.)

Q: Part of "ruling" is to look after the place a king/queen/government rules. How does Jesus rule? (A: Jesus takes care of us when we turn to Him. He looks out for us and asks His Father in heaven to give us what we need [not always what we want – there is a difference!])

Q: The Holy Spirit can also guide us in our everyday lives by helping us to tell other people about Jesus. A lot of people think that Christmas is just about presents and food. What can you say to people about Christmas to help them realise that it's more than that? (A: Open....)

Let's now ask Mary, who is Jesus' mother and our mother in heaven, to pray for us so that can do something each day this week to prepare spiritually for Jesus' coming. Hail Mary.....

Make a "Christmas tree" with a difference



Instructions:

Let's think about all the different things that we are thankful for. Often at this time of year we think about the things that we want - how about instead think about all the things that we have. On coloured labels (may be cut out of wrapping paper stuck on plain paper) write down something that you want to say thank you for. Tie to the branches of a bare twig stuck in a pot wrapped in coloured paper. Perhaps each day you can each add a different label as you say thank you to Jesus, so by the end of the week you have a pretty Christmas tree with a difference.

**Gospel for Sunday 19th
December, 4th Sunday of
Advent**

Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus*

Christ

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Discussion on the Gospel



- † Light the fourth candle of your advent wreath
- † Make the Sign of the Cross
- † Someone read the Gospel slowly

Today's Gospel comes from immediately Mary has heard from the Angel Gabriel that she is to become to mother of the Son of God, but also, she has learned that her relative, Elizabeth who is older and has not had any children, is now six months pregnant. Mary's first thought is that she might need some help. Zechariah is Elizabeth's husband and they are the parents of John the Baptist who has featured in the last two Gospels.

Q: Where did Mary go? (A: To a town in the hill country/Zechariah's house....)

Q: Whom did Mary greet? (A: Elizabeth, who was Zechariah's wife)

Q: What did the baby in Elizabeth's womb (tummy) do when Mary greeted Elizabeth? (A: He Jumped in Elizabeth's womb.)

Q: Let's think about why the baby did this. Who did that baby in Elizabeth's womb turn out to be? (A: John the Baptist.)

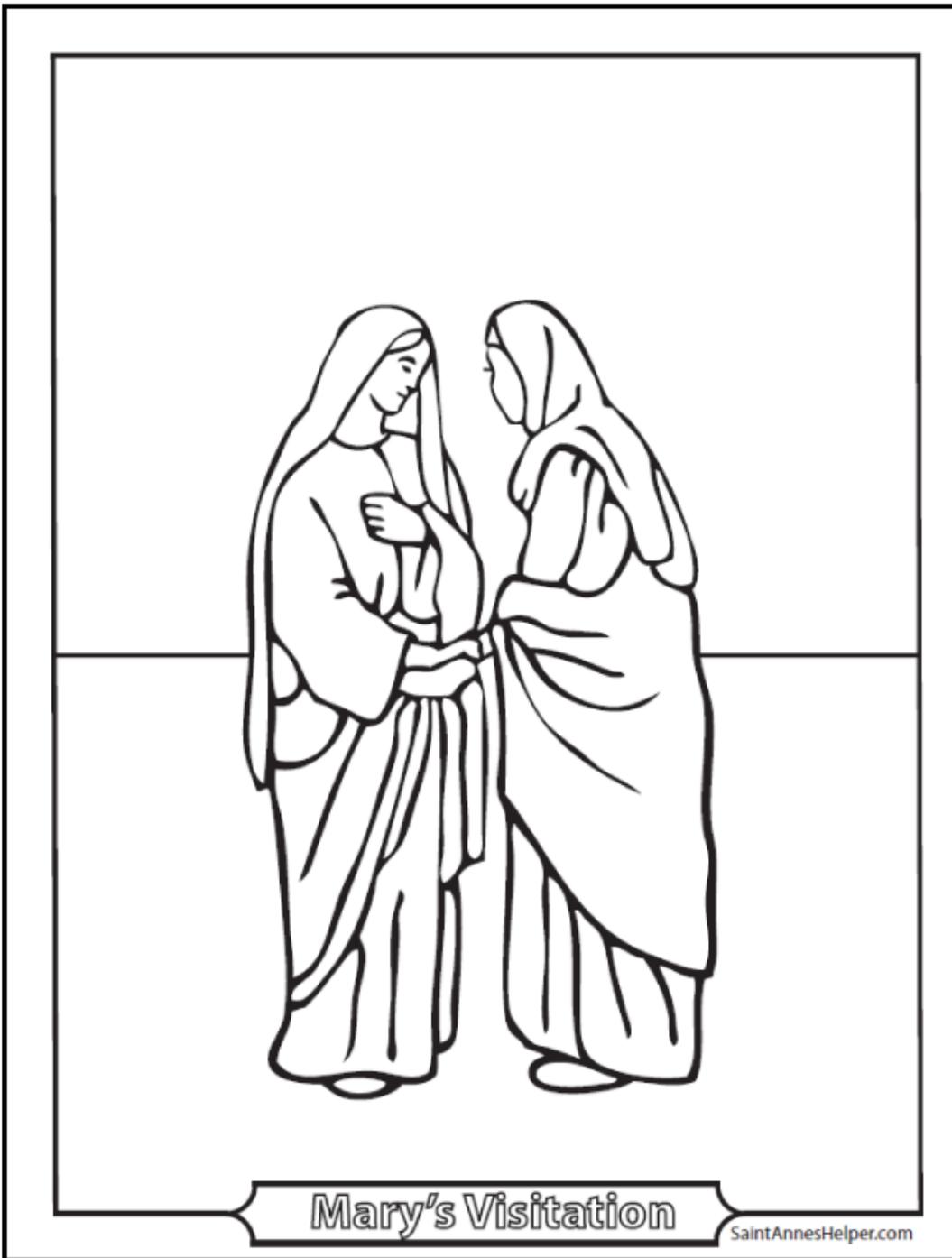
Q: Who is in Mary's womb [tummy]? (A: Jesus.)

Q: When Mary arrived, she brought Jesus with her, in her womb. Jesus is also God and because He is God, He brought the Holy Spirit as well. So when Mary arrived, John the Baptist was "baptised" by the Holy Spirit before he was born. How was the Holy Spirit going to help John the Baptist? (A: He was going to help him to preach and teach and proclaim that Jesus is coming, as we heard in last week's Gospel.)

Q: Part of "ruling" is to look after the place a king/queen/government rules. How does Jesus rule? (A: Jesus takes care of us when we turn to Him. He looks out for us and asks His Father in heaven to give us what we need [not always what we want – there is a difference!])

Q: Elizabeth said that Mary is blessed because she believed. What did Mary believe? (That she would have a baby who was the Son of God).

Let's now ask Mary, who believed the Angel Gabriel to help us to believe Jesus when He is teaching us. Hail Mary.....



Finish and colour in this picture according to the instructions

1. Draw a halo around the head of each woman and colour it in gold or yellow. Halos are drawn around the saints to show that they are shining bright with the light of Jesus.
2. Draw Elizabeth and Zechariah's house behind Mary and Elizabeth. Add a window with a cross bar in the wall to show that Jesus came to die on a cross.
3. Colour the window in yellow to show a warm welcome for Mary and to show that she is carrying Jesus, the light of the world to this house.
4. Draw some hills behind the house because the house was in the hill-country.
5. Colour Mary's dress in red, as red is the colour of motherhood.
6. Colour Mary's shawl in blue as that shows that she is chosen by God to be the Mother of God (Blue is the colour of the heavens).
7. Colour Elizabeth's dress and shawl in orange or brown as this shows her humility.
8. Draw a vase of lilies (white flowers on green stalks) beside Mary as lilies are a sign of purity.
9. Draw a few small flowers beside the house to show that Jesus' coming is the flowering (start) of a new era for the world.
10. Colour in the house.
11. Colour in the ground brown or grey and leave it plain. Bare ground is the sign of sin, and this shows that Jesus came to save the world from its sins.
12. Colour in the frame in your favourite colour.



Some Advent Activities



Why was the Son of God born?

This is what is called the History of Salvation: Read this out and then cut out the pieces below and put in the right order.

God created (made) us so that we could have a very close and loving relationship with Him - closer than with any person on earth, but our first parents (Adam and Eve) sinned by disobeying Him, by eating the forbidden fruit, and that meant death. They could not live with God and were sent out to the garden of Eden. Before this, God told Eve that one of her descendants would crush the devil. (God was talking about His own Son, but they did not know that then).

God spent thousands of years preparing His people to be ready for the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ. He sent prophets and other wise people who spoke about God. God made promises to care for His people, with Abraham, Moses and King David. He gave a set of rules (the Ten Commandments) and even His Holy Spirit inspired men to write about Him (the Bible). Eventually the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she was going to have God's Son and was to call Him Jesus. The Son of God was born as a tiny baby in a stable in Bethlehem. God had now become one of us! Jesus grew up and taught people about His Father and about the Holy Spirit who would help us to love God and one another. He died on the cross (remember the death promised to Adam and Eve?) but because Jesus is God, He could not stay dead and rose on what we call Easter Sunday. He ascended into heaven and sent the Holy Spirit so that we could all love His Father and have a perfect relationship with Him, here on earth and for ever in heaven. Jesus promised that He would come again, and we are still waiting - but we don't know When He will come. So we have to "stay awake".

Jesus promised that He would come again	Jesus died on the cross	God created Adam and Eve
Adam and Eve disobeyed God	God made promises with Abraham, Moses and King David	We need to "keep awake" and prepare for Jesus to come again.
Jesus taught people about His Father and the Holy Spirit	Jesus is born in Bethlehem	God prepared His people for His Son to come
God promised Eve that one of her descendants would crush the devil	Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven	The Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would have baby

6th December, St. Nicholas

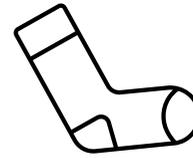
St. Nicholas was a bishop in what is now Turkey. The legend is told that there was a poor man in the town who had three daughters who wanted to get married. However, in those days, girls could only get married if their father gave some money to the husband, which was called a dowry. Sadly, the poor man did not have enough money, but Bishop Nicholas heard about this. One night when everyone was asleep, he climbed up onto the roof of the poor man's house when everyone was asleep and dropped three purses of money down the chimney for the girls as a dowry. The girls had left their stockings hanging up to dry by the fire and the money fell in the stockings! Fr. Christmas has copied this idea ever since!

8th December, Feast of the Immaculate Conception

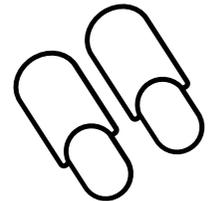
The Immaculate Conception is when **Mary was conceived without sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne**. It is not about Jesus' conception in her womb which is celebrated at the Annunciation in March. Mary conceived without sin was therefore FULL of grace. Mary, Conceived without sin, pray for us.



*Grace is the amazing "stuff" that comes to us in Baptism and all the sacraments, and grace is what helps us to live as Jesus wants us too. We pray "Hail Mary full of grace..." It was because Mary was **full of grace** that she could say yes to the Angel Gabriel and yes to the Father, and give birth to Jesus, the Son of God. Grace helps us to do amazing things.*



Why don't you put sweets or another surprise in family member's shoes for them to find in the morning?



It is very hard for children to grasp the wonder of the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation if they don't see their parents going to Confession. May be this advent you can arrange with your priest to go to Confession – take the children along with you if they can wait in the church with another person. Teach them one of these prayers:

O my Jesus because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and by the help of your grace, I will not sin again.

Father, thank you for loving me. I am sorry for all my sins, for not loving others and not loving you. By the grace of your Holy Spirit, help me to live like Jesus and not sin again.

13th December, St Lucy

St. Lucy was martyred in about 303 AD. (She died because she was told to stop being a Christian and to stop loving Jesus, but she did not want to as she loved Jesus so much). As her name means "light" a lot of stories have grown up about her and one was that she secretly took cakes at night to Christians who were hiding from the Emperor. In order to see where she was going, because her hands were full carrying the cakes, she wore a crown of candles to give her light. In Scandinavian countries, some families make "St. Lucy Cakes" which are saffron buns and are served by the youngest girl in the home. Traditionally she wears a white dress and a crown of candles on her head. We do suggest that if you do this you make cardboard candles! See below for a recipe:



BBC Food ~ Swedish Lucia rolls

Ingredients:

1 tsp saffron threads
250ml/9fl oz tepid milk
500g/1lb 2oz strong white flour
7g/¼oz sachet of fast-action dried yeast
1 tsp salt
50g/1¾oz golden caster sugar
50g/1¾oz unsalted butter, melted
100g/3½oz Quark cheese
1 free-range egg yolk
handful of raisins

Method

Preheat the oven to 220C/425F/Gas 7. Grease a baking tray. Soak the saffron in the milk for 5-10 minutes.

Combine the flour, yeast, salt and sugar in a mixing bowl and make a well in the centre. Stir the melted butter into the milk and saffron mixture and pour into the well. Add the Quark cheese.

Stir together briefly, then bring together as a dough. Knead on a floured surface for 10 minutes, or until smooth. Place in an oiled bowl, cover with oiled clingfilm and leave in a warm place for 1½-2 hours until well risen.

Knock back the dough and divide into 12 pieces. Roll each into a rectangle about 20cm/8in long. Twist each into an 'S' shape, as tight as possible. Place on the prepared baking sheet and cover loosely. Leave for 30-45 minutes or until puffed up. Brush the rolls with the egg yolk, then place one raisin in the centre of each circle (two raisins per roll).

Bake the rolls for 15 minutes, then remove from the oven and set aside to cool on a wire rack.



Recipe taken from <https://www.lavenderandlovage.com/2011/12/st-lucys-day-special-birthday-and.html>

The "O" Antiphons

In the last 7 days of Advent, the Church sings some special praises of Jesus. You must be familiar with the advent carol "O come O come, Emmanuel". The verses of this carol represent the different attributes of Jesus and the "O" is a kind of address used to God, (Such as O God/ O my Jesus....)

Activity: cut these out and fold in half so that the meaning is on the back - colour in and decorate (with glitter if you dare!) so that they are pretty, and hang a piece of ribbon through the hole so that you can hang them on your Christmas tree or maybe on a bare twig. You could do one each day so that by Christmas your branch is colourful and attractive.

O Sapienta

17th December

O Wisdom of God. Jesus is the wisdom of God and He guides us and helps us to make the right decisions.

O Adonai

18th December

O Lord, Jesus is the Lord. "Lord" was used instead of saying "YHWH" which is too sacred to say.

O Stock of
Jesse

19th December

O descendant of Jesse! Jesse was King David's father and Jesus descends from David and therefore from Jesse.

	<p>O Key of David</p>	<p>20th December</p> <p>O King! Jesus is born to be king, an even greater king than his ancestor King David was.</p>
	<p>O Oriens</p>	<p>21st December</p> <p>O Rising sun – Jesus is a new dawn o every dawn brings with it hope of a new day and Jesus brings hope of eternal life</p>
	<p>O King of the peoples</p>	<p>22nd December</p> <p>Jesus is not just king of Israel, but king o everyone – His kingdom is not of this world.</p>

O Emmanuel

23rd December

O God who is with us. Jesus is not just a human baby but He is also God. Fully God and fully Man. Christmas is about celebrating that Jesus is God with us.

If you make one of these “O Trees” send us a photo.



Christmas crib

Set up a Christmas crib if you have not done so already,

How about making Christmas crib figures out of plastic bottles? Scrunch a ball of newspaper, cover with a neutral cloth and tie to the neck of a plastic bottle half filled with water (for stability). Wrap more cloth around the body and then add a head-covering and facial details. You can make as many figures as you like -you can also use cardboard rolls for the figures as with the John the Baptist figure, or you can cut out pictures from old Christmas cards and put them on little cardboard stands.

Do send us photos of your own home-made cribs.



Heres' a fun Quiz: Questions in black, answers in red!

1. In the advent carol "The Angel Gabriel from heaven came" how is Mary described at the end of each verse? **Most highly favoured lady.**
2. In the medieval carol "Gaudete" what does *Gaudete Christus est natus* mean? **Rejoice, Christ is born. (1 point for each correct word).**
3. Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem? **2 possible answers: 1. Because there was a census and Joseph needed to be enrolled in Bethlehem. 2. Because Joseph was of the line (a descendant of) David and his home town/city was Bethlehem.**
4. Who called a census? **Caesar Augustus (Lk. 2:1).**
5. What is the other name given to Bethlehem in the Gospel? **City of David (Lk. 2:4, 11).**
6. What does "Bethlehem" mean? **House of bread.**
7. What comes next in this verse of "O little Town of Bethlehem": "And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth"? **For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above....."**
8. How many inns did Mary and Joseph call at before they found a place to stay? **The correct answer is, we dont know, it only says that there was no place for them at THE inn.**
9. Who wrote the tune for "Silent Night" **Franz Gruber.**
10. Which of the 4 Gospels tells us about the visit of the shepherds? **Luke's, (chapter 2).**
11. Which carol is this from? "He came down from earth to heaven, who is God and Lord of all"? **Once in Royal David's City.**
12. How did the angel who appeared to the shepherds, describe Jesus? **A Saviour who is Christ the Lord (Lk. 2:11).**
13. What prayer at Mass quotes from the Christmas story? **The Gloria (Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will - c.f. Lk. 2:14).**
14. What was Mary's reaction to the visit of the shepherds? **She kept these things and pondered in her heart (Lk. 2:19)**
15. Where in the Bible will we find mentioned the ox and the ass (donkey) that is so common in the stable scene? **Isaiah 1:3; "The ox knows its owner and the donkey it's master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people does not understand."**
16. In the carol "In the Bleak mid winter," what would the shepherd bring? **A lamb.**

17. What are the words of the verse of "O Come all ye faithful"? that is only sung on or after Christmas? *Yea Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesu to thee be glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing....*
18. What date does the Church traditionally celebrate the feast of Epiphany (when the magi/wise me/kings arrived)? *6th January.*
19. Which Gospel has the account of the visit of the Magi? *Matthew's, (chapter 2).*
20. How many Kings are mentioned in the account of the visit of the Magi? *Two: King Herod and Jesus, the new baby King. We do not know how many wise men/kings there were, the number 3 arose because of the 3 gifts.*
21. What are the three gifts brought by the Magi? *Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh (Mt. 2:11).*
22. What is the Latin title of "O Come all ye faithful"? *Adeste fidelis.*
23. In the carol "We Three Kings" in what verse are the words "Myrrh is mine, it's bitter perfume" sung. *Verse 4 (out of 5).*
24. Of all characters mentioned in the Christmas stories, who actually worshipped Jesus? *The wise men (Magi) who "when they saw the child, with Mary His mother... they fell down and worshipped Him" (Mt. 2:11).*
25. What are the different ways in which Jesus is described in "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (1 point for each). *New born King; Christ; By highest heaven adored; Everlasting Lord; Offspring of a virgin's womb, Godhead (veiled in flesh); Incarnate Deity, Emmanuel; Prince of Peace; Sun of Righteousness; Bringer of light and life; Risen; born to raise mankind. (You may interpret more!)*



I wish you a most blessed Christmas. I will keep you all in my prayers, and please do say a prayer for me.

Carol Ann Harnett